

County, and our fellow Americans ought to look to John's commitment to public safety, duty, and service with gratitude.

Thank you, John.●

TRIBUTE TO RALPH OKERLUND

● Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, we wish to congratulate State Senator Ralph Okerlund on a remarkable career dedicated to the relentless advancement of prosperity for the great State of Utah. For the many Utahns lucky enough to know him personally—from the hills of Monroe to the halls of the State legislature—it is no surprise that Ralph has chosen to spend more time with his loving family following a consequential tenure in public life. Even for the many Utahns to whom Ralph is still unknown, his influence on civic life through his statewide legislative achievements is significant and enduring.

Senator Okerlund's success can be measured in tangible improvements in his district and across the State. His legislative efforts to facilitate investment in Utah's infrastructure projects, with tax credit incentives and coordination with the State energy and economic development offices, have brought billions of dollars to Utah—a massive boon to the State's economy and its rural counties. In addition, his efforts through the legislative appropriations process delivered Snow College a new building and higher pay for its employees. As a member of the legislative leadership on Capitol Hill, Senator Okerlund kept his commitment to allocate tax dollars wisely and effectively.

Senator Okerlund's success can also be measured by his family and by his fortitude. His professional journey began as a teacher, with degrees from Dixie College and the University of Utah. Ralph then returned to Monroe to help run his family farm and to be closer to his father, whose injury compelled his return. Okerlund would acquire and later sell the dairy but ran the farm for years until his election to the Monroe City Council. Apace with his subsequent ascensions to the mayor's office, Sevier County commission, State senate, and ultimately senate majority leader, is his family of children and grandchildren beside him, including his beloved wife Cindy, who call Monroe home. Ralph has persisted through hardship with the support of his family.

A tireless champion for rural Utah, Senator Okerlund has represented the unique challenges and opportunities facing farmers, ranchers, and rural folks at the State and national level as president of the Council of State Governments Western Association. In this role, he represented Utah's interests among neighboring States with competing ideas on how to manage critical issues like regional energy and land management. His successes in these efforts is undoubtedly owed to his deep

understanding of the issues as a man raised in Monroe.

Few can boast the wealth of personal and professional experiences amassed by Ralph Okerlund in his long and distinguished career—from dairyman to senate majority leader—but every Utahn can admire and follow his commitment to service. His record in government is not marked by expedience but, rather, by a willingness to rise to the occasion and answer the call of his neighbors and friends who seek his reliable judgement and sound leadership. Ralph Okerlund has led for 36 years as an elected official and will continue to serve his family, his friends, and his community with grace and humility.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:57 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 945. An act to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to require certain issuers to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission information regarding foreign jurisdictions that prevent the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board from performing inspections under that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 4054. An act to reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 7995. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to save Federal funds by authorizing changes to the composition of circulating coins, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 125. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 1830.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1830) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 7995. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to save Federal funds by authorizing changes to the composition of circulating coins, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5997. A communication from the Deputy Administrator for Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Child Nutrition Programs: Rescission of Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Flexibilities: Notice of Vacatur" (RIN0584-AE84) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 02, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5998. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sethoxydim; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10016-23-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5999. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adipic acid; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 10015-57-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6000. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Repeal of DFARS Clauses Related to Taxes Applied to Foreign Contracts in Afghanistan" (RIN0750-AL11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6001. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Repeal of DFARS Provision and Clause on Reserve Officer Training Corps and Military Recruiting on Campus" (RIN0750-AK89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6002. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Restriction on the Acquisition of Tantalum" (RIN0750-AK94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6003. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of